Withdrawal of equity participation by Nauru from Paradeep Phosphates Limited

*220. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Republic of Nauru is going to withdraw its equity participation from the Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The Government of the Republic of Nauru have expressed their desire to withdraw their equity participation from Paradeep Phosphates Limited as, in their perception, the company is not likely to make profits in the near future and pay dividends to them.

Export of Nuclear Reactor to Iran

1309. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India to export nuclear reactor to Iran" which appeared in the *Independent*, Bombay, of 9th November, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India has designed a general purpose research reactor which could be used by developing countries for isotope production and other applications of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. These reactors when supplied will be strictly under IAEA safeguards. There are some countries including Iran who have shown interest in these research reactors.

Role of Private Sector in Production of Fertilizers

1310. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the contribution of the private sector in the total installed fertilizer production capacity of the country, both in nitrogen and in phosphates; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to enhance private sector's contribution in the field of fertilizer production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The contribution of the private sector to total installed fertilizer production capacity in the country is approximately 28.4 per cent in nitrogen and 60.0 per cent in phosphates.

(b) Four new ammonia/urea plants and one nitrophosphate plant are currently under implementation in the private sector, which will enhance the contribution of the private sector in the field of fertilizer production in the country during the 8th plan period. Another private sector unit has proposed doubling of the capacity of their ammonia/urea plant on the HBJ pipeline. However, under the new Industrial Policy no licence is required for setting up a fertilizer plant.

Self Sufficiency in Production of Fertilizers

1311. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has achieved self sufficiency in production of fertilizers, both nitrogenous and phosphates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take to achieve self sufficiency in this regard?